

THE SHOWDOWN OF THE CENTURY!



VERSUS

**MARVEL
COMICS**

#1

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**IT ALL
STARTS
HERE!**



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VERSUS MARVEL COMICS

ROUND ONE

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A dynamic comic book illustration of Spider-Man swinging through the city of Manhattan at night. He is in a crouched position, suspended by his web. The background features a dense urban landscape with illuminated skyscrapers, including the Chrysler Building with its distinctive Art Deco spire. The scene is lit with a mix of city lights and a dark, starry sky. Spider-Man's iconic red and blue suit with yellow webbing is clearly visible. His mask has large white eyes. The overall tone is heroic and nostalgic.

MANHATTAN.

I LOVE
THIS
TOWN.

JUST WHEN
YOU'VE HAD IT,
WHEN YOU THINK YOU
CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE
FROM THE BIG APPLE, IT
GIVES YOU AN HONEST-
TO-GOD QUIET NIGHT
FOR A CHANGE.

NIGHTS LIKE
THIS I KNOW I DID
THE RIGHT THING
COMING BACK TO NEW
YORK AND GETTING
MY LIFE
TOGETHER...

... PUTTING ON
THE COSTUME
AGAIN. WELL,
A COSTUME,
ANYWAY.

MAYBE WITHOUT
THE MASK I'M STILL
GOING BY THE NAME BEN
REILLY, BUT THIS IS WHO
I REALLY AM. IT FEELS
GOOD BEING
SPIDER-MAN.



AW,
NO.

COME ON,
DON'T RUIN
MY NIGHT. IT'S
TOO PEACEFUL
FOR MY SPIDER-
SENSE TO BE
GOING OFF!

NOTHING IN
THE ALLEY BUT
A RUBBY,
LOOKING GUY
AND A CARDBOARD
BOX.

WHAT KIND
OF DANGER COULD
I BE DETECT--?



HOLD
ON!

WHY'S THE
BOX GLOWING?
NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE--



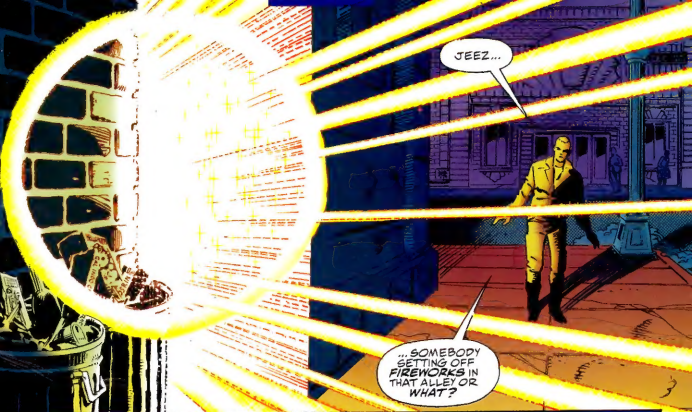
HEY!

GOT HIT,
BUT I DIDN'T
FEEL ANY...



...THING.





JEEZ...

...SOMEBODY
SETTING OFF
FIREWORKS IN
THAT ALLEY OR
WHAT?



YOU OKAY,
MAN?

hwhh?

TOO
SOON.



IT'S STARTING,
BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE
HERE!

IT'S ALL
COMING
TOGETHER,
BOY! I
NEED YOUR
HELP!



LOOK, I DON'T
WANT ANY PART
OF WHATEVER'S
GOING ON IN
THERE.

I'M
GONE
ALREADY,
OKAY?



WHOA!

THAT GUY
WAS WARPED.
LAST THING I
NEED...

"...IS TO GET
TANGLED UP
WITH SOME
CRAZY DUDE."

OUCH.

FELT...
STRANGE...
FOR A SECOND.
AND...

...IT'S
RAINING
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.
WHERE
AM I?

NO.

NO.

NO.

THE
QUESTION
IS, **WHO**
ARE YOU?

SPIDER-MAN, I PRESUME, BUT YOU'VE CHANGED TAILORS SINCE LAST WE TANGOED.

huh?

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE, LAUGHING BOY! SINCE WHEN IS THE CIRCUS IN NEW YORK?

NEW YORK?

DEAR BOY, THIS FAIR GEM IS GOTHAM, FAMED FAR AND WIDE FOR ITS FLYING RODENTS AND MURDEROUS, DISFIGURED PSYCHOTICS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. WHAT'S A GOTHAM?

"WHAT'S A GOTHAM?" HOO, THAT'S GOOD. THAT'S RICH. REMINDS ME OF A JOKE...

...ACTUALLY, EVERYTHING REMINDS ME OF A JOKE...

...BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.

YOU ARE IN GOTHAM. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH, YOU HAVE A SERIOUS REALITY PROBLEM.

YEAH, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WOULD.

WHAT'S A CLOWN DOING ON TOP OF A BUILDING IN A DOWNPOUR, ANYWAY?

OH, I THOUGHT I MIGHT BLOW IT UP...

...BUT FIREWORKS ARE SO ABYSMALLY PULL IN THE RAIN.

AND I WOULD KNOW.

A comic book panel showing Spider-Man and the Joker on a rooftop. Spider-Man is on the left, looking at the Joker. The Joker is on the right, holding a red card. The background shows a city skyline with a blue sky and some clouds.

HA HA.
YOU'RE A
RIOT.

LOOK, SOMETHING'S
PRETTY WEIRD HERE
AND I'D LIKE SOME
QUESTIONS ANSWERED.
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD
ME WHO YOU ARE.

MY
CARD.

NO!

ARE
YOU...

...INSANE?

COUNT
YOURSELF LUCKY
I'M MORE FOND
OF BUGS THAN I
AM OF BATS.

SO MUCH FOR
THE LOVELY EVEN-
ING I HAD PLANNED.
I COULD JUST
KILL THE WEATHER-
MAN.

HMMM,
THERE'S A
THOUGHT.

TA.

WOULD
SOMEBODY PLEASE
TELL ME...

14 ...WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?"

WESTCHESTER.

BACK DOWN,
M'SIEUR...

...WE
DONE DIS
DANCE TOO
OFTEN.

LET HIM
COME, CAJUN.
ME AN' MARKO
ALWAYS GOT
BUSINESS TO
FINISH.

NONE.

WHICH
IS HOW MUCH
BREATHIN'
YOU'RE GONNA
BE DOIN' IN
ABOUT TWO
SECONDS,
SHORT
STUFF.

MARKO?
WHAT'S--

ALL THE
X-MEN CAN'T
STOP THE
JUGGERNAUT,
WOLVERINE. WHAT
CHANCE YOU, GAMBIT
AND STORM
GOT?

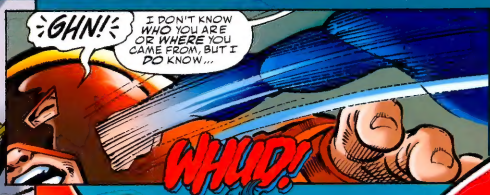
KRUNK!



HEY...

...WHERE'D
THE RUNT
GO?

WHERE'D
I GO?

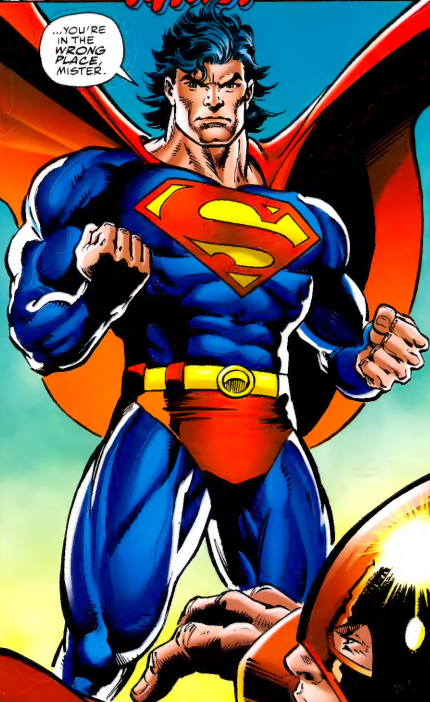


GHN!!

I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE
OR WHERE YOU
CAME FROM, BUT I
DO KNOW...

WHUUD!

...YOU'RE
IN THE
WRONG
PLACE,
MISTER.





MANHATTAN.

THAT
SHOULD HOLD
IT.

CAN'T HAVE NO
MORE CROSSING
OVER. IF THE TWO
OF THEM GET
TOGETHER...

...DON'T EVEN
WANNA THINK
ABOUT WHAT'D
HAPPEN THEN!
DON'T WANNA...



...NO.



NO!

IT'S STILL
HAPPENING!



HOLD IT
BACK! PLEASE,
THERE'S GOTTA
BE SOME WAY...



...TO
HOLD...

...IT
BACK.

CAPTAIN AMERICA.

IT'S OVER!
HYDRA DOESN'T
HAVE ENOUGH HEADS
TO KEEP ME OUT OF
ACTION...

PWING!

PWING!

SHOOT!

...OR
YOU ON
YOUR FEET!

NOW...

OFF!

CRASH!

...I
WANT TO
KNOW
WHO
SENT
YOU.
WHO'S
BEHIND
--?

...WHERE'D
HE GO?
WHERE...



WONDER WOMAN.

STAY DOWN,
OFFICER!

WONDER
WOMAN!

AM I GLAD
TO SEE YOU! THE
BRIDGE COLLAPSE
WOULD'VE KILLED
ME AND PLENTY
MORE BESIDES.

THERE.

THAT
SHOULD DO
UNTIL A CREW
CAN MAKE A
THOROUGH
REPAIR.

WRUNCH!

CAN'T THANK YOU
ENOUGH, YOU'VE
BEEN A HUGE HELP
SINCE YOU SETTLED
HERE IN GATEWAY--

--LORD,
WHAT'S
THAT?!

WONDER
WOMAN?

HULK.

**HULK
SMASH!**

BRUCE
BANNER, DON'T
YOU EVEN
PRETEND.

JUST
HEARING THAT
GIVES ME THE
CREEPS. REMINDS
ME TOO MUCH OF
THE CRAZY OLD
DAYS.

SORRY,
BETTY.

I'M
CERTAINLY
NOT THE
HULK I
USED TO
BE, AM
I?

NO MORE
RAMPAGING MONSTER.
I'VE GOT BRAINS IN MY
HEAD, CONTROL OF MY
ANGER...

...AND A
BEAUTIFUL
WIFE AT MY
SIDE.

YOU
CAN SAY
THAT LAST
PART
AGAIN. I
LIKE--

--BRUCE?

OH, NO,
WHAT IS
IT THIS
TIME?

SUPERBOY.

AND
THIS ISN'T
ALL. I CAN
FLY, I HAD
THESE X-RAY
SPECS...

...WHICH I'M
REALLY WISHING
I STILL HAD
RIGHT NOW...

...I CAN
EVEN--

I CAN'T LEAVE
YOU ALONE FOR
A SECOND!

THAT
ROVING
EYE OF
YOURS
NEVER
STOPS.

TANA!

COME ON, TANA,
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT
I WAS JUST...

...YOU KNOW, SHOWING UP. MY
TACTILE TELEKINESIS.

OH, IT WAS
TACTILE, ALL
RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW
WHY I EVEN PUT
UP WITH YOU.
SOMETIMES...

... I JUST
WISH YOU'D
DISAPPEAR.



DEEP SPACE.

LOBO.

C'MERE,
YA BASTICH!

NOBODY
CALLS LOBO A
SIX-TOED CZARNIAN
TREE SLOTH AN'
LIVES T' TELL TH'
TALE!

SO I'M GONNA
KILL YA ANYWAY!

BUT
I DIDN'T
CALL--!

huh?

WHAT
TH'
FRAG?

DOESN'T
MATTER, YA
MIGHT HAVE
LATER!

~whew!~

WESTCHESTER.

YOU'RE SAYING HE SIMPLY DIS-APPEARED? NO SIGN OF HIM AT ALL?

NONE WHATSOEVER, PROFESSOR.

THE THREE OF US WERE ENGAGED WITH JUGGERNAUT WHEN THE SHAFT OF LIGHT STRUCK HIM AND HE FAPED AWAY. THE LIGHT SEEMED TO COME FROM NOWHERE.

IF I MIGHT INTERJECT, I TRIED MATCHING TRACE READINGS I TOOK IN THE AREA TO KNOWN TRANSPORTATIONAL OR TEMPORAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN THE COMPUTER SYSTEM.

NO MATCHES, NOTHING EVEN REMOTELY SIMILAR.

WHICH MEANS WHAT, HENRY?

SCIENTIFICALLY?

HE JUST DISAPPEARED.



ONE OF THE GREAT TRAGEDIES OF MY LIFE IS THAT MY STEPBROTHER HAS BEEN AMONG OUR DEADLIEST ENEMIES...

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM, AND WHY.

I SAY GOOD RIDDANCE, CHUCK.

LET MARKO BE SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM.

LOGAN, YOU KNOW WE CANNOT TURN OUR BACKS ON ANYONE, MUTANT OR HUMAN. IF WE DO SO, WE ARE NO BETTER THAN--



GODDESS!

DIS IS IT! DE SAME LIGHT!



ALL THREE OF THEM GONE, PROFESSOR! RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...

...AND I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO EXPLAIN IT!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I'M AFRAID, SCOTT, WE SHOULD BE ASKING...

"...WHO'S
NEXT?"

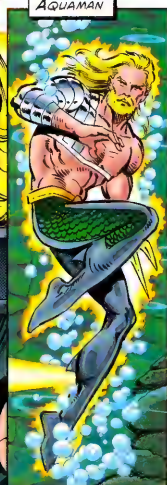
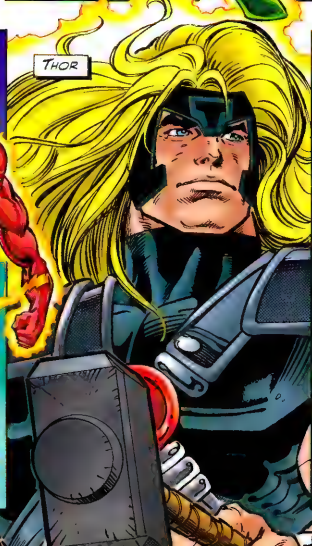
GREEN LANTERN

ELEKTRA

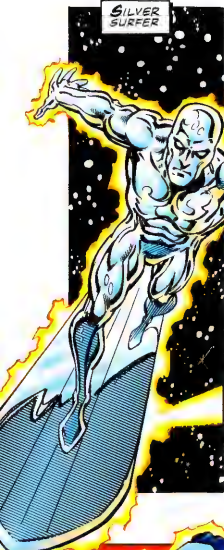
FLASH

THOR

AQUAMAN



SILVER
SURFER



CAPTAIN
MARVEL



THE SUB-
MARINER



QUICKSILVER



CATWOMAN



"I DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING..."

A large, detailed illustration of Batman in a cave. He is in the foreground, looking intense with a slight smile, wearing his blue and grey suit with the yellow bat emblem. Behind him is a massive, yellow, textured creature with a single large green eye. The cave walls are dark and rocky.

... I DON'T
KNOW HOW YOU
GOT IN HERE, BUT
WE CAN **END THIS**
WITHOUT ANYONE
GETTING HURT.

BUT FIRST
YOU HAVE TO
**PUT DOWN THE
KNIFE...**

...AND
LET THE
BOY
GO.

NO!

NO, I
WANT ANSWERS
NOW! WHAT'S
GOING ON?!

THERE'S THIS
LIGHT, YOU KNOW?
THEN I'M NOT
WHERE I'M
SUPPOSED TO
BE!

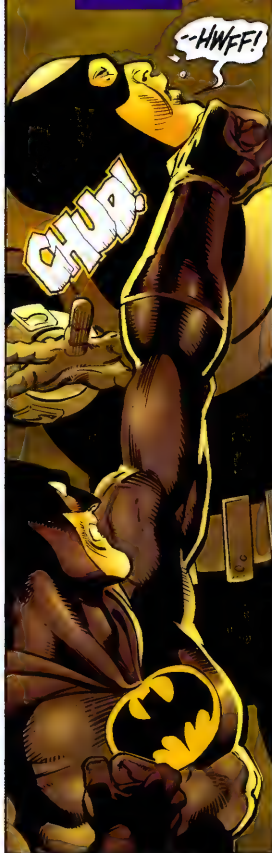
I'M HERE IN
THIS CAVE AND I
DUNNO HOW I
GOT HERE. SO
YOU TELL ME...

... YOU TELL
ME WHERE I
AM! YOU TELL
ME WHO
YOU ARE!

IF YOU HURT
THE BOY... I
AM YOUR WORST
NIGHTMARE.

I AM THE
BATMAN.





MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ALFRED PUT ANTI-SEPTIC ON THAT CUT, ROBIN.

YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO PULL THAT STUNT. I HAD THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

I'M SURE YOU DID, BUT I WAS THE ONE HE WAS POKING WITH THE KNIFE.

CALLED HIMSELF BULLSEYE. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

HOW COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE BAT-CAVE?

I DON'T KNOW.

HE'S NOT ONE OF GOTHAM'S USUAL ROGUES GALLERY, AND HE SEEMED MORE SURPRISED BY HIS PRESENCE HERE THAN WE WERE.

OBVIOUSLY, SOMETHING STRANGE IS OCCURRING. BUT I'M AT A LOSS TO--

~ROBIN!
TIM...

"...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?"

JUBES?

WERE YOU EXPECTING A BOY TO BE DELIVERED?

NOPE...

...BUT I LIKE HIS FASHION SENSE ALREADY.



--IS CLARK KENT? I NEED THAT STORY NOW!

WELL, I'M SURE HE'S JUST CHECKING FACTS, OR MAYBE--

JAPAN SURRENDERS

SOMEBODY LOOKING FOR ME?

THE PLANET'S A DAILY, KENT, NOT A WEEKLY! MAYBE THE WORD DEADLINE DIDN'T HOLD MUCH MEANING FOR YOU BEFORE...

...BUT NOW THAT I'M THE EDITOR AROUND HERE, YOU'LL GET YOUR STORIES IN ON TIME!

PEOPLE ARE COPING WITH ALL THE WEIRDNESS GOING ON OUT THERE, BUT THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING! WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT AND TELL THEM...

I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT. AND, UM...

...THIS IS A NON-SMOKING BUILDING, CHIEF.

...OR MY NAME ISN'T J. JONAH JAMESON!

KENT! WHERE THE DEVIL--



I'LL SMOKE ANYWHERE I WANT TO, KENT!

AND DON'T CALL ME CHIEF!

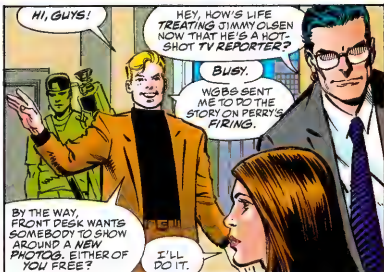
HE'S CERTAINLY GOT A DIFFERENT STYLE THAN PERRY.

THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

I WISH WE COULD FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS "MYSTERIOUS PUBLISHER" WHO TOOK OVER THE PLANET AND FORCED OUT PERRY!



WITH EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, WE CAN'T LET THAT BE OUR MAIN CONCERN, THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE THERE'S A CONNECTION...



HI, GUYS!

HEY, HOW'S LIFE TREATING JIMMY OLSEN NOW THAT HE'S A HOT-SHOT TV REPORTER?

BUSY.

WGBS SENT ME TO DO THE STORY ON PERRY'S FIRING.

BY THE WAY, FRONT DESK WANTS SOMEBODY TO SHOW AROUND A NEW PHOTO. EITHER OF YOU FREE?

I'LL DO IT.



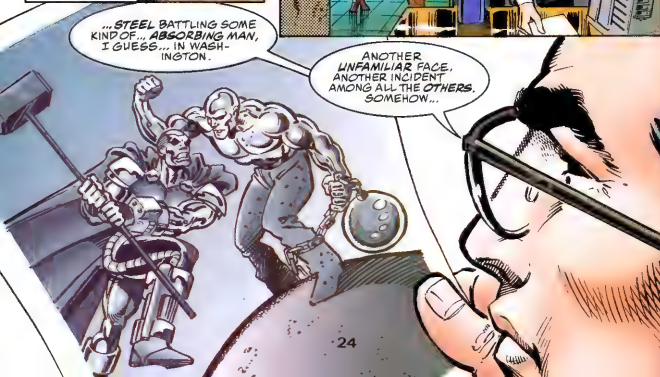
OH, CLARK, I PULLED A PHOTO OFF THE WIRE FOR YOU. IT'S ON YOUR DESK.

SEE YA, CLARK.

GOT IT.

TAKE CARE, JIMMY.

hmmmm...



...STEEL BATTLING SOME KIND OF... ABSORBING MAN, I GUESS... IN WASHINGTON.

ANOTHER UNFAMILIAR FACE, ANOTHER INCIDENT AMONG ALL THE OTHERS. SOMEHOW...



"...IT MUST
ALL ADD
UP."

BY CLARK KENT
Planet reporter

"What's happening?"



Everyone from school children to Superman is asking the same question as our reality inexplicably changes around us

Nothing, apparently, is safe. Not the buildings in which we live and work, not the people we know and love, not even the heroes on whom we depend



Among the most visible reminders of our suddenly unstable reality are the disappearances of familiar costumed heroes...

... coupled with appearances of new and different ones, sporting names like Captain America...



...or Daredevil, the man without fear.

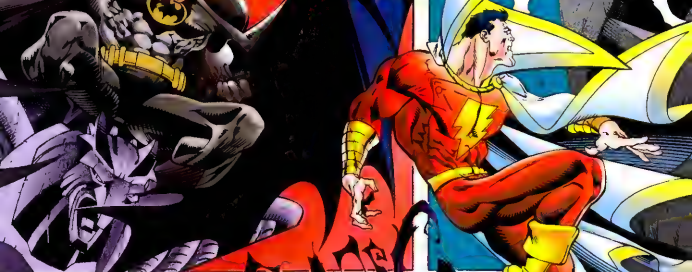


We concern ourselves
with heroes because they
are mirrors in which we
see ourselves.

Their reactions
during this crisis
reflect the range of
our reactions



Some face
threats posed
by unfamiliar
villains as
bravely as
ever.



...while encounters between
those more likely to be
considered anti-heroes...



...have
erupted in a
violence bred of
fear or
confusion



Although misunderstanding has led to blows in some cases...



more often we have risen above our differences, united by a spirit of learning ..



.. or friendship



or teamwork



We all want to find a cause
for our fractured reality,
and we have no answers.



So all of us, from
super hero to common
man, are left to fight
our individual battles.



Heroes, both
familiar and
unfamiliar, battle
new menaces...

We must hope that in
trying to win these
battles.

...we're not
losing a more
epic war we
don't yet
understand

CLARK?
IF YOU'VE
GOT A
MINUTE...

... while the rest of
us fight the battle
of everyday lives
buffeted by forces
beyond our
control.



...TAKE
A LOOK AT
THIS.

SURE
THING,
LOIS.

THE MAN-BAT
AND... NO, I DON'T
RECOGNIZE THE
OTHER. VERY NICE
WORK, THOUGH.



MEET THE MAN
WHO TOOK THAT SHOT.
CLARK, THIS IS OUR NEW
PHOTOGRAPHER.

HECK OF A
PHOTO. SORRY,
I DIDN'T GET
YOUR NAME.

WELL, IT'S REALLY
BEN REILLY, BUT MY
PROFESSIONAL NAME
IS PETER PARKER, SO
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT
YOU CAN CALL ME.

AND THANKS,
BUT I REALLY
GOT LUCKY WITH
THE PHOTO. RIGHT
PLACE AT THE
RIGHT TIME.



DON'T BE
SO MODEST,
PETER.
PLEASSED TO
MEET YOU.

YEAH,
YOU TOO.

THEY TELL
ME WE'RE
GOING TO BE
WORKING
TOGETHER.

GREAT...



...MAYBE
BETWEEN THE
TWO OF US, WE CAN
FIGURE OUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING.

OH, I DUNNO
ABOUT THAT. I THINK
IT'LL TAKE SOMEBODY
BIGGER THAN EITHER
OF US...



"...TO REALLY GRASP IT."

WHAT TRANSPIRES
HERE? THE UNIVERSE
ITSELF RIPPLES
WITH DISTURBANCE.

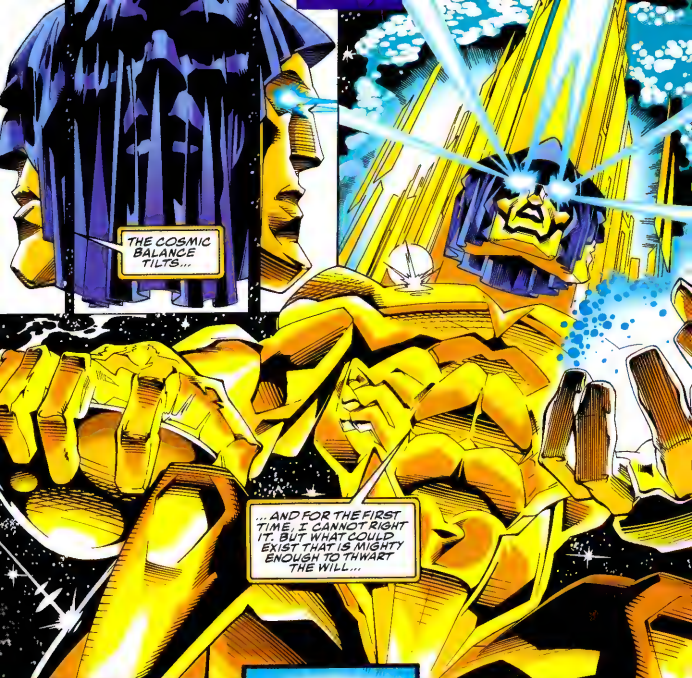
I SENSE THE
WORKINGS OF
FORCES I HAVE
NEVER BEFORE
ENCOUNTERED,
POWERS WHICH
MAKE ME
INCONSEQUEN-
TIAL BY
COMPARISON.

EVENTS
ARE
BEING
SET IN
MOTION...

...THAT
NOT EVEN
THE SPECTRE
CAN STOP.



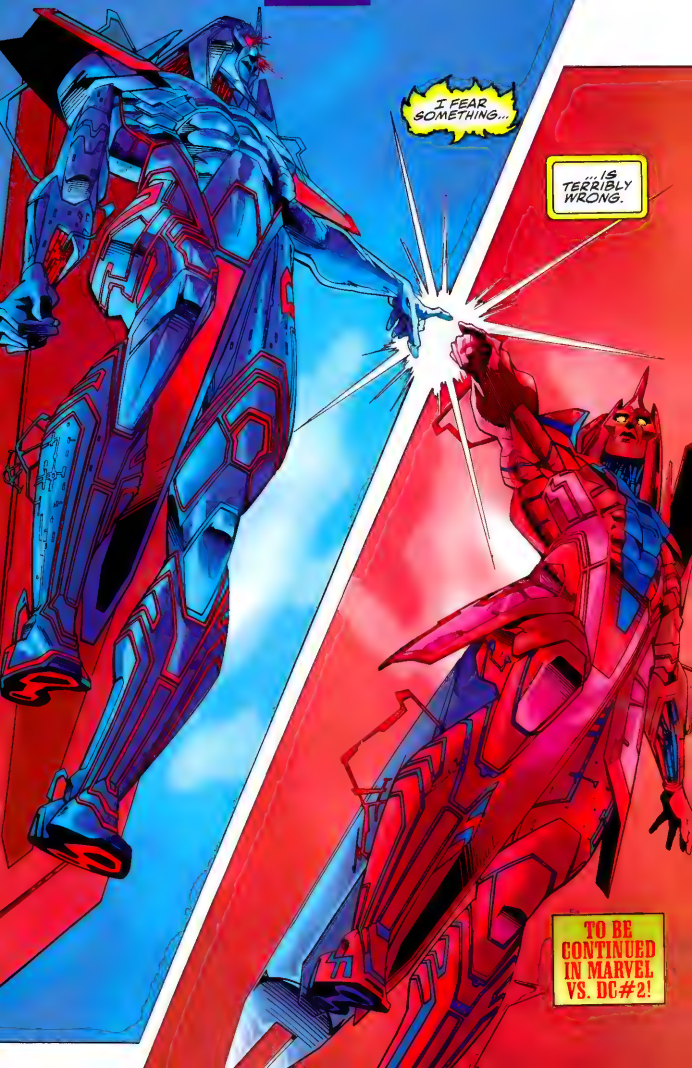
THE COSMIC
BALANCE
TILTS...



... AND FOR THE FIRST
TIME, I CANNOT RIGHT
IT. BUT WHAT COULD
EXIST THAT IS MIGHTY
ENOUGH TO THWART
THE WILL...



... OF THE
LIVING
TRIBUNAL?



I FEAR
SOMETHING...

...IS
TERRIBLY
WRONG.

TO BE
CONTINUED
IN MARVEL
VS. DC #2!

About 60 years ago, the first comic book appeared featuring a hero with a cape, long underwear, and powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Many others soon followed. Heroes with long bat ears, heroes with magic rings, heroes who could run as fast as bullets, and so on. Unfortunately, I wasn't born yet so I wasn't there to read about them.

About 30 years ago, another major comics publisher was coming into its own with a whole new breed of hero. Heroes who spun webs, heroes who turned into green monsters, heroes who burst into flame, and so on. I was a young lad in Oshkosh, Wisconsin when I discovered comic books with all these fascinating figures at the drugstore where my mother worked. These colorful heroes seized my imagination - I learned how to read just so I could figure out what was in those white balloons floating above their heads. It didn't take long before I began investing all my allowance and all my lawn-mowing money in these strangely compelling periodicals.

As I carefully pored over each and every new treasure I acquired, certain questions were sparked in my adolescent mind, questions that soon were fanned into flames. Questions of a cosmic nature. Questions like... who's stronger, Superman or the Hulk? Who's a better fighter, Captain America or Batman? Who's a better swimmer, Sub-Mariner or Aquaman?

About 15 years ago, I fulfilled a childhood dream by joining the staff of Marvel Comics. The perplexing conundrums of my youth had at that time still gone unaddressed. The heroes lived in their separate worlds and as powerful as they were, they could not surmount the dimensional - and legal - barriers that kept them apart. Now that I was on the other side of the comic-book page, I learned my younger self was not the only one preoccupied by these long unanswered questions - not a month went by that I didn't see at least one fan letter from somebody suggesting we pit all our guys against all of theirs in a definitive knock down, drag out contest of champions.

With the publication you hold in your hands, it has finally come to pass. The ultimate fantasy of untold thousands of comics readers has at last become reality. And me - I'm as pleased as a kid discovering his first comic book to be a part of this epic undertaking. My co-editor Mike Carlin and I are bosom buddies from the early eighties and we've seized the massive challenges coordinating this monumental project with the manic glee of two super heroes righting a longstanding wrong. If you have anywhere near as much fun reading this four-issue extravaganza as we're having putting it together, you're in for a treat that won't be equaled for a long time to come.

Mark Gruenwald
Co-editor
Marvel Comics

P.S. Vote Marvel!

As Mark just mentioned, he and I have been pals for about 15 years. I joined Marvel Comics as Mark's assistant, and we quickly overcame any boss-worker baloney and became fast friends. Mark's story of how he came to find comics, learn from them and ultimately live the dream of actually helping to create them parallels mine to a T. What we had in common (love of comics) helped us forge a bond that mirrors the bond that has brought many readers together in fan clubs, comic-book conventions and on the internet. The last 30 or so years have really brought the comics reader and fan to the forefront.

The readers are the ones who first realized that Superman and Batman actually shared a space and not only could interact but should. And what's more, they could team up with the rest of the DC Universe's great heroes (Flash, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Hawkman and others) and form various Justice Leagues to participate in Infinite Crises. The readers are the ones who wanted all the characters of the Marvel Universe (Captain America, Thor, Rogue and others) to get together in various Contests of Champions and Secret Wars.

Sixty years, all told, and there has been only one major event the readers have been hoping/asking for that hasn't happened - an all-encompassing crossover set on a scale so big, so cosmic, that you would need two entire universes in which to fit it all!

I left Marvel about ten years ago and have since been at DC (where I actually interned over twenty years ago - so I am back where I belong!) and truth to tell, the denizens of both the Marvel and DC Universes, *behind the scenes*, actually mingle and merge way more than you might suspect. At the aforementioned conventions, at local watering holes, even at each others' weddings (Mark and I have both been in each other's wedding parties over the years!) - anywhere and everywhere we've had crossovers *behind the scenes*! Comics is a small enough pond that us fish (writers/artists/editors) keep swimming back and forth from company to company.

Now is the time for the characters to do the same. Now is the time to fulfill the dreams of millions of comics readers (Mark, myself, and the writers and artists of DC VERSUS MARVEL included). Now is the time for the characters to meet en masse... the way we creators have for 10, these many years (though with probably a smidgen more physical conflict)... to decide the fate of not one, but two Universes!

And, y'know, IF our heroes can survive all this life/death baloney they, too, might be able to become fast friends. (Luckily there will always be villains to keep those happy heroes - and us writers and artists and editors - on their toes!)

Let the games begin!

-Mike Carlin
Co-editor
DC Comics

P.S. Vote DC!

★ DECISION '96! ★

The fate of the two greatest comic book universes hangs in the balance. Eleven battles will determine which universe is supreme. And *you* get to decide which fighters will win The Battle of the Century!

There are six preliminary "bouts" looming in the cosmic title match that is DC VERSUS MARVEL! Aquaman vs. The Sub-Mariner! Elektra vs. Catwoman! Captain Marvel vs.

Thor! Jubilee vs. Robin! The Flash vs. Quicksilver! Silver Surfer vs. Green Lantern!

Next up on the MARVEL VERSUS DC card are the five main events (the heavy-weights, if you will)! Superman vs. Hulk! Captain America vs. Batman! Lobo vs. Wolverine! Storm vs. Wonder Woman! Superboy vs. Spider-Man!

***Eleven representatives from the Marvel Universe
and eleven representatives from the DC Universe.***

All the greatest of their kind.

**All aware that the Universe that loses the most
battles could cease to exist forever.**

**All at your mercy, because *you* can control the
outcome of the five main events!**

Using the ballot on the last page of this issue* you can answer the age-old question of who would win these universe-spanning confrontations!

What follows is the most important information you could read to help you make an informed decision when casting your votes regarding the Battle of the Century!

Each combatant in DC VERSUS MARVEL is featured here. Their facts and figures are presented in an effort to enlighten you regarding the strengths and abilities of each and every hero involved. All this is designed to give you the statistical input needed to make an educated choice regarding who would vanquish who in a knock-down, drag-out contest of might and wits!

**MARVEL VERSUS DC is your opportunity to affect events
in two universes! Use your vote, or else your favorite hero
could lose his or her entire existence!!**

★ MAY THE BEST UNIVERSE WIN! ★

RESULTS TO BE SEEN IN MARVEL VERSUS DC #3

*Or in the free DC VERSUS MARVEL preview and/or ballot card available in limited quantities at a comics shop near you.

Or in the DC COMICS section of America Online. Voting ends at midnight December 31, 1995... so vote now!



SUPERMAN

Created by Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster

REAL NAME: Clark Kent

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: None

DUAL IDENTITY: Secret

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Reporter, columnist, novelist

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Editor of Newstime magazine

PLACE OF BIRTH: Conceived on planet Krypton, "born" out of birthing matrix in Smallville, Kansas, U.S.A., DC-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: Engaged to Lois Lane

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: Metropolis

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP: None

HEIGHT: 6' 3" **WEIGHT:** 225 lbs.

EYES: Blue

HAIR: Black

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Vast superhuman strength, invulnerability, able to move, fly and react at superhuman speeds; X-ray vision, telescopic vision, microscopic vision, heat vision, superhuman senses

SOURCE OF POWERS: Kryptonian physiology charged by solar radiation

SPECIAL SKILLS: None

WEAPONS: None

FIRST APPEARANCE: ACTION COMICS #1 (1938)



VERSUS

MARVEL COMICS

THE HULK

REAL NAME: Robert Bruce Banner

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: Bob Danner

DUAL IDENTITY: Publicly known

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Unemployed

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Nuclear physicist, enforcer, covert operations leader, auto mechanic

PLACE OF BIRTH: Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A., Marvel-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: Married to Elizabeth "Betty" Ross

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: Mobile

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP: None

HEIGHT: 6' 6" **WEIGHT:** 1,150 lbs.

EYES: Green

HAIR: Black

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Vast superhuman strength, stamina, and resistance to injury; ability to leap miles in a single bound

SOURCE OF POWERS: Gamma radiation mutated physique

SPECIAL SKILLS: None

WEAPONS: None

FIRST APPEARANCE: INCREDIBLE HULK #1 (1962)





CAPTAIN AMERICA

REAL NAME: Steven Rogers

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: None

DUAL IDENTITY: Secret

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Professional hero

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Soldier, police officer, teacher, illustrator, special agent

PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, U.S.A., Marvel-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: Single

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: New York City

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP: The Avengers

HEIGHT: 6' 2" **WEIGHT:** 240 lbs.

EYES: Blue

HAIR: Blond

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Peak human strength, agility, speed, stamina, and resistance to injury

SOURCE OF POWERS: Super-soldier serum augmented physique

SPECIAL SKILLS: Mastery of unarmed combat, mastery of throwing shield

WEAPONS: Indestructible shield

FIRST APPEARANCE: CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS #1 (1940)



BATMAN

Created by Bob Kane

REAL NAME: Bruce Wayne

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: "Matches" Malone,

Sir Hemingford Gray

DUAL IDENTITY: Secret

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Multimillionaire socialite

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: None

PLACE OF BIRTH: Gotham City, U.S.A., DC-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: Single

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: Gotham City

CURRENT GROUP AFFILIATION: None

HEIGHT: 6' 2" **WEIGHT:** 220 lbs.

EYES: Blue

HAIR: Black

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: None

SOURCE OF POWERS: Not applicable

SPECIAL SKILLS: Incomparable athlete, skilled in all forms of physical combat, world's greatest detective, master of escape and disguise.

WEAPONS: Utility belt contains wide array of devices such as lasers, gas pellets, ropes, and Batarangs.

FIRST APPEARANCE: DETECTIVE COMICS #27 (1939)



WONDER WOMAN

Created by William Moulton Marston

Real name: Diana

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: None

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Ambassador, visiting lecturer

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Princess

PLACE OF BIRTH: Themyscira, DC-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: Single

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: Gateway City

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP: Justice League America

HEIGHT: 5' 11" **WEIGHT:** 135 lbs.

EYES: Blue **HAIR:** Black

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Vast superhuman strength, able to fly and move fast enough to deflect bullets with her silver bracelets

SOURCE OF POWERS: Gift of the ancient Greek gods

SPECIAL SKILLS: Trained in all ancient Greek methods of armed and unarmed combat

WEAPONS: Wields the unbreakable Lasso of Truth, forged from the girdle of Gaea, which forces anyone held by it to tell the absolute truth

FIRST APPEARANCE: ALL-STAR COMICS #8 (1941)



VERSUS

MARVEL COMICS



STORM

REAL NAME: Ororo Munroe

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: None

DUAL IDENTITY: Secret

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Professional hero

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Rain goddess, thief

PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, U.S.A.-Marvel-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: Single

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: Salem Center, New York

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP: The X-Men

HEIGHT: 5' 11" **WEIGHT:** 127 lbs.

EYES: Blue **HAIR:** White

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Psionic manipulation of the weather, including rain, fog, lightning, and wind; she can fly by riding wind currents

SOURCE OF POWERS: Benevolent mutation

SPECIAL SKILLS: Mastery of lockpicking, escape arts, and battle strategies

WEAPONS: None

FIRST APPEARANCE: GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1 (1975)



WOLVERINE

REAL NAME: Logan (no known first name)

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: None

DUAL IDENTITY: Secret

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Professional hero

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Soldier, covert operative

PLACE OF BIRTH: Somewhere in Canada, Marvel-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: Single

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: Salem Center, New York

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP: The X-Men

HEIGHT: 5' 3" **WEIGHT:** 195 lbs.

EYES: Brown **HAIR:** Black

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Superhuman strength, agility, reflexes, and stamina, heightened senses, rapid healing powers, possesses retractable claws on each hand

SOURCE OF POWERS: Benevolent mutation

SPECIAL SKILLS: Mastery of many forms of unarmed combat

WEAPONS: None

FIRST APPEARANCE: INCREDIBLE HULK #180 (1974)



LOBO

Created by Keith Giffen and Roger Slifer

REAL NAME: Just Lobo

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: The Main Man, the Master of Frag

DUAL IDENTITY: Just Lobo, okay?

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Bounty hunter, assassin, scourge of th' cosmos, thug

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Bounty hunter, assassin, scourge of th' cosmos, thug

PLACE OF BIRTH: The formerly delightful planet of Czarnia

MARITAL STATUS: Confirmed bachelor

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: At large on his spazzfrag spacehawg or in some divey space bar

CURRENT GROUP AFFILIATION: No one would have him!

HEIGHT: 6' 4" **WEIGHT:** 305 lbs.

EYES: Blood red **HAIR:** Sepulchre black

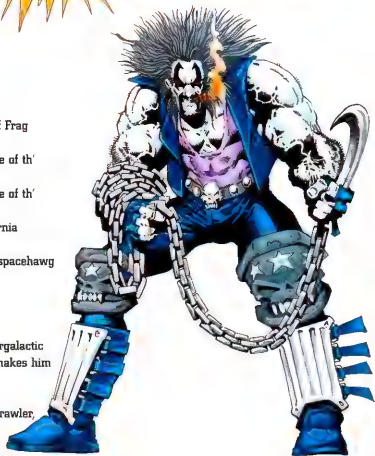
SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Vast superhuman strength, intergalactic tracking ability, healing factor, deal with heaven that makes him immortal

SOURCE OF POWERS: Hideous twist of fate

SPECIAL SKILLS: Good with his hook and chain, good brawler, mean biker

WEAPONS: Gutting hook with chain, various sidearms

FIRST APPEARANCE: Goofy version: OMEGA MEN #3 (1983); cooler version: JLA #18 (1988)



SUPERBOY

REAL NAME: Superboy

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: None

DUAL IDENTITY: None

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Hero and student

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Defender of Metropolis

PLACE OF BIRTH: Project Cadmus, U.S.A.—DC-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: He's single and likes it that way.

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: Hawaii

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP: Honorary Legionnaire

HEIGHT: 5' 7" **WEIGHT:** 150 lbs.

EYES: Blue **HAIR:** Black

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Tactile telekinesis power enables him to fly, lift anything he touches, and protect himself and those he touches from direct physical harm. He can also extend t.k. causing objects to break apart, move, or explode.

SOURCE OF POWERS: Genetically altered clone

SPECIAL SKILLS: Popular with the ladies

WEAPONS: None

FIRST APPEARANCE: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #500 (1993)



VERSUS

MARVEL COMICS



SPIDER-MAN

REAL NAME: Peter Parker

OTHER CURRENT ALIASES: Ben Reilly

DUAL IDENTITY: Secret

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Waiter

FORMER OCCUPATIONS: Newspaper photographer

PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, U.S.A.—Marvel-Earth

MARITAL STATUS: Single

USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS: New York City

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP: None

HEIGHT: 5' 10" **WEIGHT:** 165 lbs.

EYES: Hazel **HAIR:** Brown (dyed blond)

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Superhuman strength, stamina, and resistance to injury, ability to leap 20 feet in a single bound, ability to stick to walls

SOURCE OF POWERS: Irradiated blood

SPECIAL SKILLS: Inventive genius

WEAPONS: Wrist-worn web-shooters projecting strong, fast-drying web for a variety of uses, including impact webbing; stingers

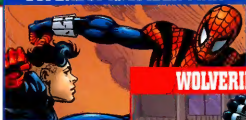
FIRST APPEARANCE: AMAZING FANTASY #15 (1962)

THE BATTLES

HULK vs. SUPERMAN



SUPERBOY vs. SPIDER-MAN



WOLVERINE vs. LOBO



BATMAN vs. CAPTAIN AMERICA



WONDER WOMAN vs. STORM



**FIND OUT
IF YOU PICKED
THE WINNERS
OF THE BRAWLS
THAT END IT ALL**

IN MARVEL VERSUS DC #3 ON SALE IN FEBRUARY '96

No purchase necessary. All ballots must be received by December 31, 1995. Limit one ballot per envelope, per person. Print your name, address, city, state, ZIP Code and age on the attached ballot or on a 3"x 5" index card and mail it to the address below to participate. Voting open to everybody except employees of DC COMICS, MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, their affiliated companies, distribution and advertising agencies and families. By voting, each participant acknowledges and agrees that his/her ballots and all rights of copyright contained therein shall be automatically and immediately assigned to DC COMICS and MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP and shall become their sole and exclusive property and will not be returned. Offer void where prohibited by law. Voting sponsored by DC COMICS and MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP.

WHO IS STRONGER?

WHO IS COOLER?

WHO IS MEANER?

WHO IS SMARTER?

WHO IS TOUGHER?

**VOTE
NOW!**

- ☐ **BATMAN vs. CAPTAIN AMERICA**
- ☐ **HULK vs. SUPERMAN**
- ☐ **SUPERBOY vs. SPIDER-MAN**
- ☐ **WOLVERINE vs. LOBO**
- ☐ **WONDER WOMAN vs. STORM**

CHECK ONE BOX PER BATTLE AND DROP THIS BALLOT OFF AT
YOUR VERSUS VOTING HEADQUARTERS
(A.K.A. YOUR LOCAL COMIC BOOK SPECIALTY STORE.)

FOR ALTERNATIVE VOTING METHODS, REFER TO THE FAR RIGHT PANEL.

SIGNATURE _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
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ALTERNATIVE VOTING METHODS

if you are unable to get to a comic book specialty store,
you can still participate by:

- 1) Mailing your complete ballot to:
"The Battles '95"
P.O. Box 2233, Libertyville, IL 60092
or... 2) E-mail votes to the **AMERICA ONLINE** ballot
boxes of your five heroes:

dvmbatman@aol.com	VS	mvdcaptam@aol.com
BATMAN		CAPTAIN AMERICA
mvdhulk@aol.com	VS	dvmsuper@aol.com
HULK		SUPERMAN
dvmsboy@aol.com	VS	mvdspeidey@aol.com
SUPERBOY		SPIDER-MAN
mvdwolvrm@aol.com	VS	dvmlobo@aol.com
WOLVERINE		LOBO
dvwnwonder@aol.com	VS	mvdstorm@aol.com
WONDER WOMAN		STORM

★ OFFICIAL ★

★ BALLOT ★



VERSUS MARVEL Comics

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MINUTEMEN

KANG HAS NEVER SERVED ANY BUT *HIMSELF*. WHY SHOULD I *ACCEPT* SUCH AN OFFER, ESPECIALLY FROM AN UNKNOWN?

BUT WE ARE *NOT* UNKNOWN, GREAT KANG. YOU KNOW US WELL. AND WE KNOW YOU.

The Kang Council!

Like it?
BUY IT!

